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MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART FACT SHEET

AUGUST, 2012

The National Headquarters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is located in Springfield, Virginia. The Order now includes about 45,300 total members, organized into 6 geographical Regions, 50 State Departments, and 478 Chapters. The Order's annual operating budget is approximately $9.7 million of which nearly $6.4 million goes to support the Service Program. The majority of the funding is received from the MOPH Service Foundation through either restricted or unrestricted grants. The Service Foundation receives their money through various fundraising activities, such as thrift stores and a vehicle donation program. The Order has a number of national programs which are described below.

NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

- The NSP operates a nation-wide network of 78 service offices in 43 states and 2 territories from Guam to Puerto Rico. Over 73,800 veterans and dependents receive expert assistance in obtaining well deserved benefits from the VA from MOPH's service staff comprised of 137 trained and accredited National Service Officers (NSO's), managers, and assistants. In addition to its paid staff, the Order has a dedicated corps of volunteer Department and Chapter Service Officers who also provide assistance to veterans
- In FY 2012, MOPH NSO's obtained over $298 million in VA benefits for their clients, submitted over 26,500 claims to the VA, processed 272 appeals, appeared at 169 hearings, and made 1,340 outreach visits to Vet Centers, Hospitals, and MOPH chapters. These numbers do not reflect the contacts and visits made by MOPH volunteer Department and Chapter Service Officers.
- The MOPH Service Program also provides expert legal opinions and representation for veterans before the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). And only MOPH represents any veteran regardless of membership or affiliation. The MOPH does not accept government funds for any case brought to appeal.
- When not assisting veterans directly, MOPH National Service Officers are required to attend local VA training, successfully complete an on-the-job Training Program, and one week of annual training in order to maintain their accreditation.
- The MOPH is proud of its NSO designated veterans case management system (VCMS). Its web-based client database, automated VA forms, and reports provide for rapid client response and excellent case oversight.

VETERAN AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICES (VAVS)

- A centerpiece of MOPH funded activities is our superb VAVS program, assisting veterans in VA facilities and State Veteran operated Homes. The MOPH Service Foundation provides each Department with VAVS grants to provide clothing, personal hygiene items, etc. to veterans in need.
- The Order has volunteers serving our hospitalized veterans throughout the country who donate their time freely at VA facilities and State Veterans' Homes. In 2011, some 1,151 members of the Order logged in more than 126,000 hours at over 85 sites; the equivalent of more than 3150 full time VA employees (FTE), saving the VA over $2,898,000 in salaries.
- MOPH has just completed awarding the fifth year of our youth volunteers' scholarships. These youth come from all walks of life and are very sincere in wanting to assist veterans. Working closely with our local Chapters and Patriots, they bring new ideas and boundless energy to our program.

AMERICANISM

- MOPH provides materials and volunteers to visit classrooms and civic organizations nationwide wherein our Members tell of their experiences in the US Armed Forces, providing historical perspective to world events.
- Employment opportunities for veterans is made through our Job Fairs. In conjunction with the VA, the Department of Labor, and the Small Business Administration, MOPH assisted in numerous Job Fairs in 2011 which led to the hiring of a number of OIF/OEF Veterans.
- In 2012, the MOPH Scholarship Program awarded 83 scholarships, valued at more than $250,000. These grants went to recent Purple Heart recipients, their spouses, and to children and grandchildren of MOPH Members, including those who were Killed in Action (KIA),

LEGISLATIVE

- The Order maintains a constant presence on Capitol Hill voicing its position on numerous legislative issues concerning Veterans and the Military. The Order maintains membership in many Veterans' coalitions that represent 5.5 million active duty, reserve, retired, veterans and their families that help bring forth a united stance on important legislative issues that affect veterans and the defense of our nation.
- The Order is a member of the coalition of veteran organizations that led the successful effort to obtain legislation that provided advance funding for the VA Health Care System.

FOR FURTHER
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